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Letter dated 20 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued by the inter-ministerial committee to monitor sanctions against UNITA following its meeting of 8 June 2000 in Ouagadougou (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**

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Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Inter-ministerial communiqué

The Inter-Ministerial Committee to Monitor Sanctions against UNITA, set up by Decree No. 2000-119/PRES/PM/MAET dated 29 March 2000, met on 8 June 2000 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the chairmanship of the Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Committee again considered what the Fowler report had to say regarding Burkina Faso and the recommendations contained therein.

It then reviewed the measures already taken by the Government of Burkina Faso since the publication of said report and considered what further measures to take.

A. Concerning the issue of armaments and the movement of persons to whom the relevant sanctions of the Security Council against UNITA apply, the Committee considered the additional texts proposed by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Security designed to strengthen existing measures on the issue, including those relating to drugs.

B. The Committee dwelt at length on the issue of the transit of aircraft in general and of arms in particular. In that connection, the Committee noted the following:

1. Burkina Faso has only two operational international airports (Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso) capable of receiving large transport aircraft which are generally used for transporting arms. These airports are governed by the regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and are managed by the Agency for the Safety of Aerial Navigation in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA), which is independent of any government authority;

2. While Burkina Faso authorizes the transit of aircraft of all types, it does so always in accordance with the international regulations to which it has subscribed. On the other hand, it cannot verify the route subsequently taken by such aircraft.

In order to enhance the execution of its mission in accordance with the terms of Decree No. 2000-119/PRES/PM/MAET of 29 March 2000, the Committee instructed the Minister of Transport and Tourism to:

1. Undertake, on the basis of the international texts in effect, an exhaustive study to enable it to verify the content of large transport aircraft which are in transit;

2. To consider with Burkina Faso's partners the possibility of equipping our airports with radar capable of verifying the route taken by the aircraft concerned.

C. Regarding the issue of foreigners who engage in commercial activities, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts drew attention to the national legislation in effect on that issue, including the procedure of prior authorization.

In that connection, he assured the Committee that no natural or artificial person to whom United Nations Security Council sanctions applied would be authorized to engage in commercial activity in Burkina Faso.

Lastly, the Committee welcomed the visits made by an American military mission led by the military attaché of the United States Embassy to the bases and airport facilities at Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso and the military facilities and infrastructures of the garrison at Pô.

The Ambassador of the United States of America to Burkina Faso participated in these visits, which took place on 3, 4 and 5 April 2000.

The Committee decided to reiterate the invitation extended to Ambassador Fowler by the Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 23 March 2000 to visit Burkina Faso for working meetings.

(Seal of Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Ouagadougou, 8 June 2000